

# Sheep, Wolves and the Shepherd

## Acts 20:27-31

For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the **whole will of God**.<sup>28</sup> **Keep watch over yourselves** and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds of the church of God**, which he bought with his own blood.<sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, **savage wolves** will come in among you and will not spare the flock.<sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.<sup>31</sup> So **be on your guard!** Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

## The Sheep is the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

## The Wolves are the Enemy that Destroys

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 1-4)

2. Unholy \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 5-10)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 15)

- Acts 20:30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Acts 20:19

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Shepherds Guard and Guide the Sanctified Body of Christ in the Broken World

- Guide in \_\_\_\_\_
- Guard in \_\_\_\_\_
- Guide in \_\_\_\_\_
- Guard in \_\_\_\_\_
- Guide out of their personal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:11-13** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



## Digging Deeper

*(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)*

### Focus passage: Acts 20:13-38

Take the time as a group to read through this story together. *(10 minutes)*

- Review and discuss the context of this narrative.
- What are some important things that jump out to you in this story?

### Sheep *(10 minutes)*

- How does it make you feel to be called a sheep?
- **Psalm 95:7** *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;<sup>7</sup> for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

To what characteristics of a sheep can you relate as a member of Christ's Ekklesia?

### Wolves *(10 minutes)*

- What are some characteristics of wolves in the forest, and how does that apply to us here?
- Review the list of "wolves" as described in this morning's teaching. What stands out to you?
- Look over Matthew 7:15-16 to see what Jesus had to say.
- What would a wolf steal from the church body?

### Shepherds *(10 minutes)*

- Read Ezekiel 34:7-10.
- To what is the Shepherd of God's people held accountable?

### The Body of Christ at LifeWay *(15 minutes)*

- List the leadership at LifeWay. Spend time praying for them in their important roles.
  - Senior pastor and elders
  - Pastoral leadership team
  - LifeWay's office team
  - Ministry team leaders and members (Lil'Venture, KidVenture, LifeWay Youth — and others you know of)
  - Mission team

### Take home and follow up on your own:

- Read **Isaiah 40:11**. What is the relationship between God and his people—his Body? *(5 minutes)*
- Make a list of church leaders that you will begin to pray for regularly.
- Find **Ephesians 4:11-13** in your Bible. What is your place in God's work in his Ekklesia?